

February 2nd 2012.

Letters Editor
The Western Telegraph
Haverfordwest.

Dear Sir,

The claim by John Etherington (Letters 1st February) that wind energy requires a substantial amount of backup from coal and gas plants is refuted by the experts who operate the system.

The National Grid dismisses “the simplistic view that we just need more backup generation” and that “moving to a low carbon electricity system (by 2020) with increased available wind generation is manageable” [1].

The UK Energy Research Centre comes to a similar conclusion. It states that the backup needed would be modest and that “renewable energy, such as wind power, leads to a direct reduction in carbon dioxide emissions” [2].

In the same edition of the Western Telegraph, two letters state, incorrectly, that global temperatures have not risen since the late 1990s.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has published global temperature details based on an average of the three main international sources. This shows that 2010 was the warmest year, followed by 2005 with 1998 in third place [3]. Significantly, the first decade of this century has been by far the warmest on record [4].

The Secretary General of the WMO said, “our science is solid and it proves unequivocally that the world is warming and that this warming is due to human activities” [5].

This scientific evidence is accepted by world governments, Academies of Science, health experts such as the BMA, defence chiefs at the MoD and the Pentagon, leaders of industry at the CBI, farming and trade unions, and the majority of people.

For Dave Haskell (Letters 1st February), though, this is all a conspiracy “to extract more taxes from the masses”. Such denial of the evidence has been compared to having human fingerprints all over a murder weapon and claiming that the killer must be a ghost!

Yours sincerely

Gordon James
Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

NOTES

1. 'National Grid publishes report on how electricity supply and demand could be balanced in 2020' – press release attached
2. 'UK Energy Research Centre dispels myths surrounding intermittent renewable energy'
<http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/support/tiki-index.php?page=0604!Ntermittencyrelease>
3. Met Office 2012 annual global temperature forecast
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/archive/2011/2012-global-temperature-forecast>
4. 'This decade warmest on record' BBC News website 8-12-09
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8400905.stm>
5. WMO: 2011 One of the hottest years on record
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/29/us-climate-conference-idUSTRE7AS0MQ20111129>